

§ 418.205

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hospice aide) services or both may be covered on a 24-hour continuous basis during periods of crisis but care during these periods must be predominantly nursing care. A period of crisis is a period in which the individual requires continuous care to achieve palliation and management of acute medical symptoms.

(b) *Respite care.* (1) Respite care is short-term inpatient care provided to the individual only when necessary to relieve the family members or other persons caring for the individual.

(2) Respite care may be provided only on an occasional basis and may not be reimbursed for more than five consecutive days at a time.

(c) *Bereavement counseling.* Bereavement counseling is a required hospice service but it is not reimbursable.

[48 FR 56026, Dec. 16, 1983, as amended at 55 FR 50835, Dec. 11, 1990; 74 FR 39413, Aug. 6, 2009]

§ 418.205 Special requirements for hospice pre-election evaluation and counseling services.

(a) *Definition.* As used in this section the following definition applies.

Terminal illness has the same meaning as defined in § 418.3.

(b) *General.* Effective January 1, 2005, payment for hospice pre-election evaluation and counseling services as specified in § 418.304(d) may be made to a hospice on behalf of a Medicare beneficiary if the requirements of this section are met.

(1) *The beneficiary.* The beneficiary:

(i) Has been diagnosed as having a terminal illness as defined in § 418.3.

(ii) Has not made a hospice election.

(iii) Has not previously received hospice pre-election evaluation and consultation services specified under this section.

(2) *Services provided.* The hospice pre-election services include an evaluation of an individual's need for pain and symptom management and counseling regarding hospice and other care options. In addition, the services may include advising the individual regarding advanced care planning.

(3) *Provision of pre-election hospice services.* (i) The services must be furnished by a physician.

(ii) The physician furnishing these services must be an employee or medical director of the hospice billing for this service.

(iii) The services cannot be furnished by hospice personnel other than employed physicians, such as but not limited to nurse practitioners, nurses, or social workers, physicians under contractual arrangements with the hospice or by the beneficiary's physician, if that physician is not an employee of the hospice.

(iv) If the beneficiary's attending physician is also the medical director or a physician employee of the hospice, the attending physician may not provide nor may the hospice bill for this service because that physician already possesses the expertise necessary to furnish end-of-life evaluation and management, and counseling services.

(4) *Documentation.* (i) If the individual's physician initiates the request for services of the hospice medical director or physician, appropriate documentation is required.

(ii) The request or referral must be in writing, and the hospice medical director or physician employee is expected to provide a written note on the patient's medical record.

(iii) The hospice agency employing the physician providing these services is required to maintain a written record of the services furnished.

(iv) If the services are initiated by the beneficiary, the hospice agency is required to maintain a record of the services and documentation that communication between the hospice medical director or physician and the beneficiary's physician occurs, with the beneficiary's permission, to the extent necessary to ensure continuity of care.

[69 FR 66425, Nov. 15, 2004]

Subpart G—Payment for Hospice Care

§ 418.301 Basic rules.

(a) Medicare payment for covered hospice care is made in accordance with the method set forth in § 418.302.

(b) Medicare reimbursement to a hospice in a cap period is limited to a cap amount specified in § 418.309.

(c) The hospice may not charge a patient for services for which the patient is entitled to have payment made under Medicare or for services for which the patient would be entitled to payment, as described in §489.21 of this chapter.

[48 FR 56026, Dec. 16, 1983, as amended at 56 FR 26919, June 12, 1991; 70 FR 70547, Nov. 22, 2005]

§418.302 Payment procedures for hospice care.

(a) CMS establishes payment amounts for specific categories of covered hospice care.

(b) Payment amounts are determined within each of the following categories:

(1) *Routine home care day.* A routine home care day is a day on which an individual who has elected to receive hospice care is at home and is not receiving continuous care as defined in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) *Continuous home care day.* A continuous home care day is a day on which an individual who has elected to receive hospice care is not in an inpatient facility and receives hospice care consisting predominantly of nursing care on a continuous basis at home. Home health aide (also known as a hospice aide) or homemaker services or both may also be provided on a continuous basis. Continuous home care is only furnished during brief periods of crisis as described in §418.204(a) and only as necessary to maintain the terminally ill patient at home.

(3) *Inpatient respite care day.* An inpatient respite care day is a day on which the individual who has elected hospice care receives care in an approved facility on a short-term basis for respite.

(4) *General inpatient care day.* A general inpatient care day is a day on which an individual who has elected hospice care receives general inpatient care in an inpatient facility for pain control or acute or chronic symptom management which cannot be managed in other settings.

(c) The payment amounts for the categories of hospice care are fixed payment rates that are established by CMS in accordance with the procedures described in §418.306. Payment rates are determined for the following categories:

(1) Routine home care.

(2) Continuous home care.

(3) Inpatient respite care.

(4) General inpatient care.

(d)(1) The intermediary reimburses the hospice its appropriate payment amount for each day for which an eligible Medicare beneficiary is under the hospice's care.

(2) Effective December 8, 2003, if a hospice makes arrangements with another hospice to provide services under the circumstances specified in section 1861(dd)(5)(D) of the Act, the intermediary reimburses the hospice for which the beneficiary has made an election as described in paragraph (d)(1) of this section.

(e) The intermediary makes payment according to the following procedures:

(1) Payment is made to the hospice for each day during which the beneficiary is eligible and under the care of the hospice, regardless of the amount of services furnished on any given day.

(2) Payment is made for only one of the categories of hospice care described in §418.302(b) for any particular day.

(3) On any day on which the beneficiary is not an inpatient, the hospice is paid the routine home care rate, unless the patient receives continuous care as defined in paragraph (b)(2) of this section for a period of at least 8 hours. In that case, a portion of the continuous care day rate is paid in accordance with paragraph (e)(4) of this section.

(4) The hospice payment on a continuous care day varies depending on the number of hours of continuous services provided. The continuous home care rate is divided by 24 to yield an hourly rate. The number of hours of continuous care provided during a continuous home care day is then multiplied by the hourly rate to yield the continuous home care payment for that day. A minimum of 8 hours of care must be furnished on a particular day to qualify for the continuous home care rate.

(5) Subject to the limitations described in paragraph (f) of this section, on any day on which the beneficiary is an inpatient in an approved facility for inpatient care, the appropriate inpatient rate (general or respite) is paid depending on the category of care furnished. The inpatient rate (general or